

## REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that the claims are allowed.

The foregoing amendments place the claims in better form for issue, by making the nomenclature in the various claims more consistent, correcting antecedent basis and correcting grammar and punctuation.

In addition, "p" is corrected to read "p⁻" in claim 2, "p" is corrected to read "p⁺" in claim 25, and "n" is corrected to read "n⁻" in claims 12, 16, 18, and 22. Support is provided by FIG. 2.

In claims 8 and 26, the phrase "in a vertical section" is canceled, as it is believed these claims are more definite without this phrase.

Claim 9 is amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

In claims 16 and 22, the clause "via the p well regions of the planar front side" is moved to improve readability.

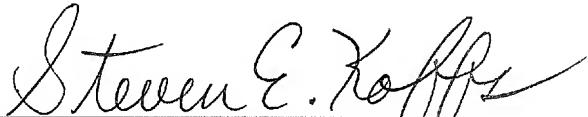
Applicants note that the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance of claims 1, 12, 16 and 22 referred to the language of paragraphs (a) and (b) in claim 1. However, the full language of these two paragraphs is not identically contained in all the independent claims, and each claim is to be construed according to the features recited therein. For example, claim 16 has the slightly doped n- epitaxial layer and the adjacent p- epitaxial layer and a certain defined range of doping. The same range is contained in paragraph (b) of claim 1 and the same adjacent position of the two epi layers is contained in paragraph (a) of claim 1. Also, the remarks based on paragraph (b) of claim 1 are also applicable to claim 16, lines 5 to 8.

However, claim 12 does not require the two epitaxial layers to be adjacent, as recited in paragraph (b) of claim 1, so claim 12 is not limited thereby. Applicants submit that the Examiner was correct in allowing claim 12, in that the claim 12 does not require two adjacent epitaxial layers to distinguish from the prior art of record, and at least one other feature of claim 12 serves as a basis for patentability. Similarly, claim 22 does not require that the two epitaxial layers be adjacent to each other, and is not limited thereby.

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Respectfully submitted,

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